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The New York Peace Society.

Notes of the Fall Work.

By William H. Short, Executive Secretary.

In no period since the organization of the New York Peace Society has it been more active or its work more important than during the past three months.

Activity in behalf of the ratification of the general arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France has taken precedence over other matters. A Citizens' National Committee, consisting of many hundreds of eminent men, widely distributed geographically over the United States, and with the Honorable Joseph H. Choate as chairman, was organized in support of the treaties. Its work was divided into several divisions, and one of the most important, that of church activities, was assigned to this society. The object which we sought to accomplish was the securing of resolutions from churches and religious organizations of all kinds, and especially the writing of personal letters to Senators on the subject. In order to accomplish these ends it was, of course, necessary to get the subject generally discussed and presented throughout the country, both in the churches and the religious press. The task of furnishing matter to the daily press was undertaken by another agency. This office, therefore, secured, as nearly as possible, the names and addresses of religious leaders throughout the entire country—the priests of the Roman Catholic Church, the rabbis of Jewish congregations, the secretaries of Christian Associations and similar bodies in colleges and cities, and the clergy in the Protestant churches. These numbered in all 120,000, leaving, of course, certain loosely organized and obscure bodies which could not be reached because of their failure to keep and publish records of their organizations.

In accomplishing the purpose of securing sermons and addresses before all these organizations the coöperation and influence of officials or official agencies in the churches were sought when possible. Cardinal Gibbons granted an interview to Mr. James Creelman, which was sent with a letter and other matter to all priests of the Roman Catholic Church. The letter to the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, written by Pope Pius X in June, 1911, in which he approved most heartily of present aspects of the movement for international peace, had a little while before been sent to the same addresses. The Commission on Peace and Arbitration of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America (Protestant) furnished a strong letter, which was reproduced and sent to all the Protestant clergy, and, in the failure to secure coöperation from officials of the Young Men's Christian Associations, to the secretaries of these organizations also. The New York Board of Jewish Ministers, representing both the Orthodox and Liberal branches of the church, coöperated with us by furnishing a strong appeal to their fellow religionists.

Mrs. Elmer E. Black, of the American Peace and Arbitration League, with headquarters in New York, also sent an invitation to 20,000 or more of the leading clergymen in the country asking them to observe November 26 as Unity Sunday, and to preach sermons on the treaties. With coöperation from so many influential sources the response seems to have been almost universal. A considerable portion of the ministers ob-

served November 26, as requested, and there is abundant reason for believing that from one hundred to one hundred and fifty thousand sermons and addresses, or perhaps more, were given before religious congregations and assemblies on the subject of universal peace and the arbitration treaties.

The securing of such results entailed a large amount of work. Suitable literature was prepared and printed, letters and appeals framed, negotiations necessary for securing the desired assistance from many sources were carried on, and a large correspondence growing out of the campaign attended to. We do not feel that we have originated or added greatly to the sentiment in favor of the ratification of the treaties, for we believe it to be all but universal throughout the length and breadth of the country. It has been of considerable importance, however, that an opportunity should be furnished to the people to give expression to this sentiment, and such opportunity we have been able to furnish in coöperation with the Citizens' National Committee.

At the request of this committee we also undertook the organization of the mass-meeting which was held at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday evening, December 12, and presided over by Mr. Choate. The disturbance which was made on that occasion by perhaps 200 organized rowdies, who came in groups into the hall, and whose activities were directed by a man who had been sent into the front part of the hall, have served to bring the meeting into much publicity, and to secure a large amount of comment from the press, which has furthered the object of the evening more than could have been done by the combined efforts of the speakers and friends of the treaty, able and influential as they were. There was no doubt in anybody's mind that the vast and influential majority of those present were favorable to and voted for the strong resolution presented by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, favorable to ratification, and no doubt has been thrown upon this fact by any portion of the press, except one or two papers representing the Clan-na-Gael and similar Irish societies. A reading of *The Gaelic American* for December 16 would leave little room for doubt as to the source of the disturbance, and the fact that the men who made it were substantially the same group who had tried to break up the performance at the Maxine Elliott Theatre when "The Playboy of the Western World" was being presented by the Irish Players. So far as could be seen there was no opposition from any portion of the audience except the small organized opposition mentioned. The audience of the evening was one of the most representative and influential which has come together in recent years in New York for the consideration of any subject. It was not packed in favor of the treaties, but tickets were given freely to all applicants. The net result of the meeting was a splendid expression in favor of the treaties and an advertisement and discussion of the merits of arbitration and the arbitration treaties which could not have been secured for any amount of money for press agent purposes.

On the afternoon of December 18 at the Hotel Astor a pleasant event took place under the auspices of this society, to which its members and many friends were invited. The meeting was held to listen to messages from the Universal Races Congress by Drs. Felix Adler, W. E. Burghardt Du Bois, and Mr. Masujiro Honda. A number of influential men and women from each of the several races living in New York were present, and

the Society was especially glad to be the host, on the occasion, of a splendid group of foreign students who are studying in the universities and colleges of the city. Mr. Wm. Jay Schieffelin presided, and after the excellent addresses a pleasant social hour was enjoyed, during which light refreshments were served, Mrs. Elmer Black acting as the hostess.

Important resolutions expressing regret for the attack by Italy on Turkey, and calling upon the aggressor to submit the subject of dispute to the Hague Tribunal, were adopted by the officers and directors of the society at a largely attended meeting on November 13, and published soon afterwards. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the Peace Society of New York cannot refrain from expressing its surprise and regret that Italy, the ancient seat of empire over the civilized world, and hitherto the beloved of nations, has recently presented an ultimatum to Turkey and precipitated war in disregard of the spirit and provisions of the Hague treaty, to which Italy is a party.

Resolved, That we earnestly beseech Italy to reconsider her action and appeal to the Hague Tribunal with a view to the speedy and peaceful settlement of all questions between Turkey and herself.

Resolved, That this Society assures Italy that such action would be hailed with joy by all parties in this republic as indisputable proof of her determination to adhere strictly to her obligations under the Hague treaty and to maintain untarnished the reputation she has hitherto enjoyed as worthy successor to the unequalled heritage of the past which she has been called upon to preserve for the benefit of mankind.

The annual meeting of the New York Peace Society will be held on the evening of Thursday, January 25, and on that occasion its members will be asked to ratify important action already taken, first, by a special committee, by the executive committee, and finally by the unanimous vote of the board of directors, looking towards a satisfactory working federation of the Peace Societies of the United States, the object being to avoid overlapping and waste, both of energy and money, and to secure a wise, uniform and continuous policy, together with that outward and apparent unity which is so essential to a movement like that in which we are engaged. The full details of the proposal will be presented at the annual meeting. Its main characteristics, however, are the following: The societies will retain their names and individuality, but will be federated through the American Peace Society, reorganized for this end. The constitution of the American Peace Society will be changed so as to meet the new situation. At its annual meeting a number of directors-at-large, representing the entire membership of the society, will be chosen, and to this nucleus will be added directors chosen by the allied societies, in accordance with their membership. A new secretary will be added, who will be associated with the general secretary and will have charge of the general executive work of the society and be responsible directly to the board of directors. Into the hands of this board the Carnegie Endowment proposes to pay a moderate annual appropriation, which will be used by the board in its general work and through the constituent societies. An important feature of our meeting on January 25 will be the changing of our constitution to make it fit the new situation.

Resolution Adopted at the Pennsylvania State Arbitration Conference, Held December 13, 1911.

The Pennsylvania State Arbitration Conference, held under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Arbitration and Peace Society in the Common Council Chamber, City Hall, Philadelphia, on the afternoon of December 13, 1911, records its hearty approval of the action of the President of the United States and the Secretary of State in negotiating general arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France, and urges the United States Senate to approve these treaties without amendment. In so doing the conference desires to go on record as believing that:

1. The United States ought to take the lead in the world movement toward the judicial settlement of international disputes by agreeing to submit to arbitration all justiciable questions which may arise, without making any exceptions on account of possibly involving its honor or vital interests, and to accept the award in all cases if made in due course by a competent arbitral tribunal, even though such award may seem to be contrary to its own interests.

2. As a necessary corollary to the binding obligation to submit all justiciable questions to arbitration it is of the utmost importance that the United States should put out of its own power the right to decide, after a dispute arises, whether or not it is justiciable. We approve the suggestion that such questions should be decided by the Joint High Commission, and especially request that this portion of the treaties be not altered.

3. We believe the treaties as proposed are constitutional; it is well settled that the United States can delegate to a designated tribunal the right to decide *all* international disputes, and it can therefore delegate to the decision of such tribunal those questions which may be determined, by *any* approved method, to be justiciable; and as no one doubts its right to delegate to a tribunal the power to decide the question of its own jurisdiction, it can provide for the decision by a second tribunal as to the jurisdiction of the first, *i. e.*, what questions are justiciable. Believing as we do in the validity of the proposed treaties, we strongly urge the United States Senate not to disapprove of them on account of any supposition that they may deprive the Senate of any of its prerogatives.

The conference also resolved that a communication be sent to the American Peace Society requesting that organization to communicate as early as possible with the officers of the faculties of all universities and colleges in the United States, asking them to take prompt action and to petition, by telegram, if need be, the Senators of their respective States to vote for and to urge the ratification of the pending arbitration treaties between the United States and the governments of Great Britain and France, and that also the American Peace Society be requested to take similar action with regard to the National Federation of Churches and the State Federations of Churches throughout our country.

We authorize and request the chairman of this conference to transmit a copy of this declaration and reso-